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will be time enough to enter on the production of these when we are able to grow corn and beans enough for home consumption.

PREPARING POULTRY FOR MARKET.

Editor Massachusetts Ploverman:
Different localities, have different ways of preparing poultry for market. For the last ten years we have sent poultry to Boston and let me give you our modus operandi.

The poultry are not fed the day they are to be killed; this leaves the crop empty; as soon as killed, (and they are beheaded) and before they get cold, the tail and wing feathers are plucked first; these feathers are thrown away and not put with the others at all. As soon as plucked we immerse them in cold water for about fifteen minutes on one-half hour—no longer—this cools them off and also destroys all life. After taking them out of the water, I take a scrubbing brush and scrub them, and give the feet a good scrubbing, this gives them a clean, fresh look; after this, a small incision is made, and the entrails removed without breaking; then the legs are tied, and they are hung in a cool cellar. The next morning they are in a splendid looking condition for market. They are then packed in boxes with clean paper around them. As we always get from two to three above the market price, we think it pays to have our poultry for all the eggs. The feathers are also sold in Boston for eight and ten cents per pound.

N. H. H.

WEST TISBURY FARMERS' CLUB

Editor Massachusetts Ploverman:
The Farmers' Club met in West Tisbury, Saturday evening, Nov. 17th, and organized by choosing the following officers:—President, Frank B. Look; Secretary, Freeman Hancock; Treasurer, J. P. Adams; Corresponding Secretary, Allen Look, Dr. H. E. Lane, and Dr. T. H. Milner.

E. A. Davis, Esq., to open the discussion at the next meeting by reading a paper upon "Turnip Culture."

Respectfully yours,
No. Tisbury, Nov. 23, 1888.

The Poultry Interest.

MATERIAL FOR EGG SHELLS.

While birds in their wild state they have no difficulty in procuring a supply of food for all the eggs, as they are able to lay. They have an unlimited range, and can pick up particles of limestone, portions of decomposed bones and other substances that can be converted into the shells of eggs, as they can hatch, only as many eggs as they can hatch, and two settings. In the case of domestic fowls, consequently, especially fowls, produce a large number of eggs in the course of a year. Some of the best of all the eggs, are those of the hen, and one hundred and fifty eggs in a year. As it is a great amount of material is required to form a shell for all the eggs, and this is contained in the grain and other kinds of food that are furnished fowls, especially those of the domestic fowls, and consequently they lay eggs that have very thin shells as all. The eggs that have thin shells are liable to break the next day during removal from place to place. Fowls, therefore, allowed to run at large or kept in a close enclosure, will lay eggs that are thicker, and consequently they lay eggs that have very thin shells as all. The best substance for forming egg-shells is bone dust. It should be prepared by grinding bones to a fine powder, and to enter bones pulverized, is made by burning the bones in a furnace, and then grinding them to a fine powder. The pulverized shells of fowls and clams are very good, and also good and safe in a quarter of a bushel of food. The pulverized shells of fowls and clams are very good, and also good and safe in a quarter of a bushel of food. The pulverized shells of fowls and clams are very good, and also good and safe in a quarter of a bushel of food.

GOOD AND POOR LAYERS.

The difference between the yield of eggs in the different flocks is very great. In some flocks, as in three or four to one. In individual hens have been known to produce 200 eggs in a year. The number of eggs in a flock is called a remarkable yield. The greatest average yield that we have ever seen was 147 eggs, while the greatest average in twelve flocks, numbering in all 2,000 layers, was 102 eggs. The best of the flocks in the latter case there were eight different breeds, and some were old hens and others were young birds. The flocks were started by a play of a pair in time in hatching and rearing chickens.—(Western Rural.

Floriculture.

MANURES FOR BULBS.

An ounce of nitrate of soda dissolved in four gallons of water is a quick and good stimulant for bulbs, to be applied twice a week or three times a week, and the bulbs and the flower spikes are fairly viable. A large handful of soot, or about a pint, tied over the best of the few good bulbs, will furnish a quantity of water for a day or two, will supply a safe and excellent stimulant also good and safe in a quarter of a pound of cow manure mixed in a large garden pot of water, and used as required. Any of these will be found to be suitable for the whole of them applied alternately will benefit bulbs that need more sustenance than the soil affords.—(Popular Science Review.)

FLORAL NOTES.

(N. Y. World.)

For house decoration there is no class of bulbous plants equal to lilycypripedium. As the days grow short, flowering plants, kept indoors, must be watered more sparingly.

Dahlia, as soon as cut, must have their stalks placed in water to insure retaining their color, and many of the flowers are liable to fade.

Lycopodium may be propagated freely from cuttings. Cuttings should be started in the spring, and the plants should be started in the spring.

The young bulbs of the rose require a great deal of care. The young bulbs of the rose require a great deal of care. The young bulbs of the rose require a great deal of care.

The gladiolus requires for its successful cultivation a rather deep, rich, friable soil, and a good drainage. The gladiolus requires for its successful cultivation a rather deep, rich, friable soil, and a good drainage.

WHOLE NUMBER 2184.

Floriculture.

Will represent for the Massachusetts Ploverman

WILD FLOWERS OF THE POETS.

NUMBER XII.

BY W. W. HARRIS.

Aster.

The asters are companion flowers to the golden rods, and the two are almost always mentioned together by the poets. The word *Aster* means "a star," and these flowers are sometimes called starwort, which is a good name. Frost-flower is a colloquial name for them, from their time of blossoming.

They are rich and handsome, having a yellow center and showy rays of purple, blue, or white. White is the symbol of purity, and purple of royalty. "Pure and royal flowers, queens among the flowers of autumn, filling the field and the wayside and the depths of the wood and with beauty unthought but not unprized."

The species of aster are very numerous, and almost any locality will probably show from six to ten kinds. The time of their great beauty is September. The most beautiful species which I have seen is *A. Linxii*, a perfectly smooth plant with tall and slender stem three feet high, bearing a large and open panicle of handsome flowers of a bright violet-blue color. It has a most elegant and royal appearance, and is a flower of the most delicate and beautiful of the autumn.

This and some other kinds are worthy of cultivation, and are very ornamental in groups on the lawn. *A. patens* has rich deep blue flowers which appear early. *A. multiflorus* has a more delicate and beautiful shade of purple and white flowers in profusion. *A. longiflorus* forms a kind in blossom very late, after the frosts have killed almost all other flowers.

"Star when you rocks the stream insure,
The lovely gentian blossoms still;
Still wave the star-flower and the fern
O'er the soft outline of the hill."

Centaur.

Late in autumn, the beautiful blue flowers appear, of two species, the closed and the fringed, besides others less known. The former is the earlier, blossoming in September; it is perennial, growing in moist, rich soil, and is very common in the garden. Its flowers are of a deep blue color, more than an inch long, and of a very rich deep blue color, but turning to peculiar reddish-purple shades when they remain. They never open at the top, but rather at the sides.

John Burroughs says: "How curiously this flower looks with its deep blue bell-shaped flowers, some of them a blue and white blossomed. It is the sun among our wild flowers, and its color is a beautiful contrast to the white of the snow and the blue of the sky."

The "imitable fringed" gentian comes later. Almost all of our autumn flowers, sometimes being found late in October. It is an annual, growing in moist, grassy places, but never very common. Its flowers are two inches in length, open and spreading at the top, the four-lobed border cut into a fine fringe. In color they are a very rich, bright blue, almost a pure azure. "Blue is an exceedingly lovely color. It is quiet and restrained, and it has a certain quality of grace, suggestive of peace and repose."

"The most beautiful of our fall flowers," says John Burroughs, "is the fringed gentian. What a rare and delicate, almost aristocratic flower, in its color, its shape, its surroundings. It does not lure the bee, but it lures and holds every passing human eye."

Bryant has immortalized this flower also as a beautiful poem in his own line, that opens when the quiet light Succeeds a noon and frosty night.

"Thus comest not from frosty lean
The purple gentian, whose own hue,
Or columbines, in purple dressed,
Not o'er the ground-bird's hidden nest."

"When waists late, and com't aloes,
When woods are bare, and birds are flown,
And frost and storming days are o'er,
The aged year is near his end."

Then doth the sweet and quiet eye
Look through its fringe to the sky,
And from the heart a sigh is sent,
A flower from its crannies wail."

